

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-10 ISO-00 EB-08 CAB-02
CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00
FAA-00 L-03 MCT-01 PA-01 ICA-11 /083 W
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P R 261722Z APR 78 ZFG ZEL
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8043
INFO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI
AMEMBASSY ALGIERS
AMEMBASSY DOHA
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY MANAMA
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMEMBASSY TRIOPOLI
AMCONSUL MONTREAL

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 07789

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (ADDING TRIPOLI AS INFO ADDEE)

E.O. 11652 GDS
TAGS: PINS EAIR
SUBJECT: APPROACHES TO GOVERNMENTS OF IRAN AND
SAUDI ARABIA REGARDING ANTI-HIJACK CONTACT
GROUP

REF: STATE 102162

1. EMBOFF APRIL 26 MADE APPROACH SPECIFIED REFTL
TO ELFGEN OF /OREIGN OFFICE LEGAL DIVISION. ELFGEN
HAD RESERVATIONS IN REGARD TO TIMING AND CONTENT
OF USG PROPOSAL.
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2. ELFGEN BELIEVES ANY APPROACH TO SAUDI ARABIA
SHOULD BE VERY SPECIFIC AND BASED ON FINDING
THAT A PARTICULAR COUNTRY WOULD BE LIKELY TO
RESPOND WELL TO A SAUDI EFFORT. HE SAID PREVIOUS
APPROACHES BY CONTACT GROUP CORE MEMBERS HAD
ESTABLISHED THAT SAUDIS WERE UNWILLING TO TAKE

PUBLIC LEAD BUT PREFERRED TO WORK SUBTLELY AND QUIETLY. SAUDIS APPARENTLY FEEL THEMSELVES VULNERABLE TO ATTACK BY RADICAL ARAB STATES IF THEY ARE TOO CONSPICUOUS. IF, ON THE OTHER HAND, INQUIRIES BYFRG OR OTHER CORE MEMBERS SHOW THAT A MODERATE ARAB GOVERNMENT COULD BE PERSUADED BY SAUDI INTERVENTION TO ADHERE TO THE CONVENTIONS, IT WOULD BE ADVISABLE TO URGE THE SAUDIS TO MAKE SUCH AN APPROACH AND THE SAUDIS MIGHT WELL AGREE.

3. IN THE CASE OF IRAN, ELFGEN SUGGESTED THE FIRST STEP SHOULD BE TO ASCERTAIN WHY THAT GOVERNMENT AFTER ATTENDING THE CONTACT GROUP MEETINGS DID NOT AGREE TO MAKE DEMARCHES TO NON-ADHERENTS TO THE CONVENTIONS. IF IT IS JUST A MATTER OF THE IRANIAN UN DELEGATION NOT PUSHING FOR AND RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS, THIS SHOULD BE KNOWN BEFORE ANOTHER JOINT APPROACH IS CONSIDERED. IF IRAN COULD BE ENLISTED FULLY, ELFGEN STILL WOULD FAVOR USING SUCH SUPPORT ON A BI-LATERAL BASIS AFTER CAREFUL IDENTIFICATION OF GOVERNMENTS TO WHOM AN APPROACH WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE AND EFFECTIVE.

4. GIVEN THE DESIRABILITY OF THOROUGH PREPARATION, ELFGEN FAVORS WAITING A FEW DAYS TO A WEEK UNTIL MORE INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE. HE SAID FRG
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EMBASSIES IN THE CAPITALS CONCERNED HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO IDENTIFY EXACTLY WHAT IS PREVENTING THE HOST GOVERNMENT'S ADHERENCE TO THE CONVENTIONS, WHETHER IT IS A MATTER OF INERTIA, LACK OF EXPERTISE IN ADJUSTING DOMESTIC LEGISLATION TO TREATY OBLIGATIONS, OR FOR REASONS OF FOREIGN POLICY. HE PRESUMES OTHER EMBASSIES OF THE CORE MEMBERS ARE GATHERING THE SAME SORT OF INFORMATION.

5. ELFGEN EMPHASIZED THAT THE FRG STILL STRONGLY SUPPORTS THE CONTACT GROUP EFFORT AND THAT IT AGREES IN PRINCIPLE WITH THE IDEA OF A NEW JOINT APPROACH TO THE GOVERNMENTS OF ARABIA AND IRAN WHEN THE PROPER PREPARATION WORK HAS BEEN DONE AND IN REGARD TO PROPERLY DESIGNATED TARGETS.

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